Reduction of Telephone Registration Fee

†1257. CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the occasion of Deepawali, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Delhi has reduced the telephone registration amount from Rs. 3000 to Rs. 1500/-;

(b) if so, the number of registrations as on 30th November, 1999; and

(c) the objective of starting this facility and by when these registered persons will be provided telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the number of registrations as on 30th November, 1999 is 1,03,618.

(c) the objective is to stimulate demand of new telephones in MTNL, Delhi. Efforts are a foot to provide telephones to most of the registrants by March, 2000.

Opening of new Post Office in villages of Himachal Pradesh

†1258. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of such villages in Himachal Pradesh where no Post Office facilities are available within the distance of four to five kilometres;

(b) whether the matter is under consideration of Government; and

(c) if so, the names of the villages where Govemment propose to open Post Offices and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The names of villages in Himachal Pradesh where no post office exists within the

†'Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

distance of four to five kilometres, are given in Annexure *[See Appendix 188, Annexure No. 34.]* However, post office facilities relating to the delivery of mails and payment of Money Orders are available to all the villages in the country including those of Himachal Pradesh.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There arc proposals to open Branch Post Offices at the following villages during the year 1999-2000 subject to the fulfilment of norms and availability of resources:—

(i) Mair, District Hamirpur
(ii) Rakkar, District Kangra
(iii) Dhaniri, District Kangra
(iv) Nanhar, District Kangra
(v) Badukhar, District Kangra
(vi) Jhanjiani, District Hamirpur
(vii) Khuthrin, District Hamirpur.

STD/PCO Booths allotted to Handicapped and Ex-Servicemen

†1259. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of STD/PCO booths which have been allotted to the handicapped persons and Ex-servicemen during the year 1999-2000; and

(b) whether Government are taking any effective action to complete the waiting list of telephone connections at an early date; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) While preference is given to handicapped persons & Ex-servicemen in the matter of allotment of STD/PCO/ISD, no separate records are maintained for each category of applicants.

(b) For clearing the waiting list, 45.50 lakh & 53.30 lakh new

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